The Appearance of Lord Krsna #3 Puppet Show

from Krsna Book by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
A Puppet Show by Mrgaksi dasi

Scene One

Narrator: Once, the world was overburdened by the unnecessary defense force of different kings. They were actually demons but were posing themselves as the royal order. At that time, the whole world became perturbed, and the predominating deity of this earth, Bhumi, went to see Lord Brahma to tell of her calamities due to the demoniac kings. Taking the shape of a cow, she presented herself before Lord Brahma with tears in her eyes.

Bhumi: (weeping) My dear Lord Brahma, the entire world is suffering due to the demons who pose themselves as rulers, proud of their position. Instead of protecting the citizens, they are building up great military forces and challenging each other's strength. They have no higher goal in life than to increase their material opulence. Please help us In some way, kindly relieve us of our misfortune.

Brahma: My dear Bhumi - yes, I will at once approach Lord Visnu, who is lying on the ocean of milk. Come with me, along with all the other demigods.

Approaching the Lord Song

Chorus: The world was overburdened by demoniac kings
Bhumi asked Lord Brahma if some help he could bring.
She looked like a cow with tears in her eyes
And this is what Lord Brahma replied:

Brahma: Let's go to Svetadvipa, where the God of all gods
Dressed in yellow silk, lies on the ocean of milk.
Let's go to Svetadvipa, where the Master of All
Provides for everyone. He will hear our call
So on to Svetadvipa!

Narrator: Lord Brahma led Bhumi and the demigods to the shore of the ocean of milk where Lord Visnu lies on a white island called Svetadvipa. There, with great attention, they worshipped the Lord by reciting the Vedic mantras known as the Purusa Shukta.
(Verses chanted.)

Lord Visnu's Song

Chorus: Lord Brahma then sat down in meditation
And chanted Vedic hymns with great attention.
In trance he heard Lord Visnu's words vibrate in the sky,

Visnu: Of your distress, I am aware and here is My reply:
I want the demigods to appear before Me
As sons and grandsons, in the Yadu dynasty.
Anantasesa will come as Baladeva
And then I will appear, as the son of Vasudeva.
Now go without fear.

Narrator: Lord Brahma instructed the demigods and their wives of the Lord's desires. He then left to prepare for the Lord's descent.

Scene Two

Narrator: The leader of the Yadu dynasty, King Surasena, was ruling over the district know as Mathura. On account of the rule of King Surasena, Mathura became the capital of the kings of the Yadu dynasty. Mathura was also made the capital of the Yadus because the Yadus were a pious family and they knew that Mathura is the place where Lord Krsna lives eternally.

Once upon a time, Vasudeva, the son of King Surasena, was married to Devaki. The father of Devaki had contributed a sufficient dowry because he was very affectionate to his daughter. The full dowry contributed was: four hundred elephants decorated with garlands, fifteen thousand decorated horses and eight hundred chariots. He also arranged for 200 beautiful girls to follow the bride to her home and act as her maidservants. At that time, the evil Kamsa, brother of Devaki, personally took the reins of the wedding chariot, just to please his sister. The bridal procession was about to start - bugles, conchshells and kettledrums vibrated in concert :

The Oracle Song

Chorus: Once upon a time Vasudeva, just after marrying Devaki
Was going home on his chariot along with her father's dowry.
Kamsa, her brother was driving and as they were passing

through,
A voice from the sky said, "Kamsa, you fool! This sister's eighth child will kill you!"

Narrator: Kamsa grabbed Devaki's hair and raised his sword to kill her but Vasudeva began to speak, astonished by Kamsa's behavior.

Vasudeva: (speaking) My dear brother-in-law, Kamsa, you are the
greatest warrior, how is it that you are so infuriated that you are prepared to kill your sister on this auspicious day?
Why should you be so afraid of your death?
Your death is born along with your body.
At death, this body is annihilated.
See the plant worm change
From twig to twig, carefully; so, we must take our next body.

These bodies are like those we see in our dreams -
When awake, we forget just who we've been.
So, we've forgotten our bodies in the past
And by our mental condition at death,
Accordingly we take our birth.

The luminous planets, like the moon and stars
Show their reflections on reservoirs,
The moving water makes the moon seem to move,
So, we think with these bodies we have some connection,
But this is due to illusion.

On account of illusion, we think we belong
To a certain place or the human form.
Such mental concoction and desire
Are the cause of a body we don't require.
Therefore, I beg you not to listen
To your body and mind's dictation.
Kamsa, please consider, you have no danger from your sister.
If there are sons in he future,
I promise, I shall present them to you.

Scene Three - Kamsa's Prison

Narrator: Kamsa imprisoned Vasudeva and Devaki and, in time, Devaki gave birth to a son. Vasudeva took the first born son and brought him before King Kamsa. Kamsa was pleased that Vasudeva's

promise was kept and began to speak as follows:

Kamsa: My dear Vasudeva, you need not present this child to me.
The danger is to come from the eighth born son of Devaki.
Why should I accept this child unnecessarily?
You may take him back.

Narrator: Narada Muni was anxious to accelerate Lord Krsna's descent. Narada Muni came to Kamsa the king and spoke this warning:

Narada Muni's Song

Narada: Kamsa beware! The demigods are taking birth
In the family of cowherd men and their wives
And on the other side, Vasudeva and others born in the family
Of Vrsni, of the Yadu dynasty.
All are preparing for the appearance of the Lord.
Kamsa beware! The demigods are taking birth!
They have come to assist Lord Visnu. Kamsa become alert.
The demigods are taking birth!
Kamsa become alert.
Lord Krsna will be coming soon.

Kamsa: (speaking) Aha! I will be safe as long as I keep Vasudeva and Devaki in prison and destroy all of their children. I cannot take any chances, for my own life is at sake. And, of course, I am the most important person of all. I think that all these members of the Yadu dynasty just might be demigods who have come to help Lord Visnu. And, as such they pose such a great threat to me! But, I will not let them win!! I shall arrest my own father, Ugrasena, and then, I will be the king! Yes! At last, I will be the king! Hahahaha!!

Chorus: When he was informed by Narada,
Kamsa became afraid.
He imprisoned his father, Ugrasena,
Devaki and Vasudeva.
Year after year, Devaki gave birth to another son.
Thinking that they may be Krsna,
Kamsa killed them, one by one.

Scene Four - Kamsa's Prison

Narrator: After Kamsa killed six sons of Devaki, a plenary portion of Lord Visnu entered her womb as her seventh child, arousing her pleasure and her lamentation. That plenary portion is celebrated by great sages as Anantasesa. To protect the Yadus, the Supreme Personality of Godhead ordered Yogamaya as follows:

Lord Visnu Instructs Yogamaya

Visnu: Vasudeva and Devaki are prison bound by Kamsa.
Lying in Devaki's womb is my expansion, Sesa.
Yogamaya, transfer Sesa to the womb of Rohini.
Then, I shall become the son of Vasudeva and Devaki.
In Vrndavana, you'll take birth from Nanda and Yasoda.
As their daughter, you'll be known as Durga and Ambika.

Narrator: Therefore, Anantasesa was transferred to the womb of Rohini and later became known as Balarama. Shortly afterwards, Lord Krsna Himself entered Devaki's womb.

The Lord of the Creation Song

Chorus: The Lord of the creation, Krsna
Entered the heart of Vasudeva
Then like the rays of the setting sun
Are transferred to the rising moon,
So this form of eternity
Was thus transferred to Devaki.
Seeing the beauty of his sister,
Kamsa knew Who was within her.

Scene Five - the Throne Room of Kamsa

Kamsa's Fear

Kamsa: What shall be done with Devaki?
Krsna's within her womb.
Seeing her wonderful beauty
Surely Krsna has come!

Kamsa: (speaking) What is to be done with Devaki? Surely, she has Krsna within her womb, so it is certain that He has come to execute the mission of the demigods. Even if I immediately kill Devaki, Krsna's mission cannot be frustrated. To kill Devaki now would be

a most abominable act. No one desires to kill his reputation, even in an awkward situation. If I kill my sister now, my reputation will be spoiled. And, if I Krsna is to kill me, no one can stop His mission I will await the inevitable future and kill the baby when He is delivered!!

Scene Six - Kamsa's Prison

(Triumphant music such as theme for Ben Hur or Exodus.)

Narrator: The demigods invisibly approached the room of Devaki and all joined in offering their respectful obeisances and prayers to please the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Who can bestow blessings upon everyone. Thereafter, at the auspicious time of the appearance of the Lord, the universe was surcharged with all the qualities of goodness, beauty and peace. All the saints and brahmanas who had been harassed by Kamsa felt peace within the core of their hearts. Then, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Visnu, Who is situated in everyone's heart, appeared from the heart of Devaki in the dense darkness of night like the full moon rising on the Eastern horizon.

(Sound of kettledrums and conchshells.)

Chorus: Jaya Jaya All Glories to the Supreme Personality of Godhead!
Jaya jaya All Glories to the Supreme Personality of Godhead!

Narrator: Krsna first appeared in His four-armed form of Lord Visnu, dressed in yellow garments, His body blackish like a dense cloud, helmet and earrings sparkling. When Vasudeva saw his extraordinary Son, he was struck with wonder. In jubilation, he mentally collected ten thousand cows and distributed them to the brahmans. Understanding that this Child was the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Vasudeva bowed down with folded hands and offered prayers:

Vasudeva: My Lord, You are the Supreme Person, beyond material existence and You are the Supersoul. You appear to have entered this world of the three modes of material nature but You are never under their influence, for you are the Master of this Goodness, Passion and Ignorance. O my Lord, after hearing the prophesy that You would take birth in our home and kill Kamsa, this uncivilized man has killed so many of Your brothers. As soon as he hears from his guards that You have

appeared, he will immediately come, with weapons, to kill You.

Narrator: Lord Visnu instructed Vasudeva that he should carry his newborn child to Vrndavana and exchange Him with the newborn daughter of Nanda and Yasoda. Lord Visnu then assumed the form of a baby, the shackles fell from Vasudeva, the doors opened and Vasudeva carried baby Krsna past the sleeping guards and across the Yamuna River to Vrndavana. Mother Yasoda was sleeping when Vasudeva arrived and exchanged the babies. By Krsna's Yogamaya, she would think that Krsna was her own son upon awakening. Vasudeva returned to his prison cell with the newborn girl and refastened his shackles.

(A babies cries are heard.)

Scene Seven - Kamsa's Throne Room

(A servant enters hurriedly.)

Servant: Master! Master! The eighth child of Devaki is born, my Lord!!

Kamsa: Now the cruel death of my life has arrived!!
(Kamsa exits)

Scene Eight - Kamsa's Prison

(Kamsa storms into the cell of Vasudeva and Devaki.)

Devaki: O my brother, do not harm this girl child! You were not warned that any harm would come to you from a girl child! She will be your daughter-in-law!

Kamsa: (growling) Give me that child!
(He grabs baby.)

Devaki: (gasp)
(The child rises above them as Yogamaya with four arms and weapons. A loud, powerful voice says to Kamsa:)

Yogamaya: Don't be so cruel to your poor sister!! The Child whom you fear, and Who will certainly kill you, has already been born somewhere else!!
(Kamsa trembles with fear. He releases Vasudeva and Devaki.)

Kamsa: My dear sister, could you please forgive
All the bad things I did so I could live?
I did not really do what I wanted
I think that I was ghostly haunted.

I've acted like such a demon as well,
I'll probably go to Brahman-killer Hell.

The message from heaven,
To my surprise did not come true!
Do demigods speak lies?

My dear brother-in-law and sister
Don't chastise me!
Give me your forgiveness
And excuse me! (He cries)

Ohhhh, you are both great-hearted
And I am so small-hearted.
How can two great souls
Fail to be sorry for a sinful wretch like me?

(Bhajan)